

always John of Gaunt's object to accentuate the ever-existing quarrel between the Commons and the Church, who were now in temporary alliance against him. If he could show that the Episcopal ministers who had been turned out by the Parliament of 1371 had been as corrupt as their successors, Lord Latimer and Eichard Lyons, he would at once raise the feeling of the laity against the Church and cover his own faults behind those of his adversaries. A great Council sat in October and November 1376, before which the Bishop of Winchester was tried on 11 charges of corruption and mismanagement during his Chancellorship ten years back. The Bishop, who had taken a chief part in the prosecution of Lord Latimer,¹ and had been one of the Council of State elected by the Commons to supersede the Duke, was particularly obnoxious to those in power, and proportionately popular in the country. Detailed charges were now brought against him of peculation and public robbery, which, if they had been proved, would have put him on a level of rascality with the worst victims of the Good Parliament. The evidence that we possess about the conduct and result of the trial is so dubious and obscure that the question of his guilt must remain undecided.¹² By standing on his episcopal privileges he prevented judgment against his person, but as many points had been proved against him which he could not deny, the lords of the Council, with the King's assent, seized and took away his temporalities to the King's pleasure. And they hunted the said Bishop from place to place both by letters and by writs, so that no man could succour him throughout his diocese, neither could he, neither durst he rest in any place; and therefore he then brake up his household and scattered his men and dismissed them, for he could no longer govern and maintain them, sending also to Oxford, where upon alms and for God's sake he found sixty scholars, that they should depart and remove every one to their friends, for he could no longer help or find them; and so they all departed in great sorrow and discomfort, weeping and with simple cheer.'³

¹ *Citron* Ang*^ Ixxii.

* See A.J3.

* *Ibid*, bxciv-hcxx; JPce<l, iv. 32-15; *Chron. Ang.*, p. 106.